

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 259967  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O SGOLDSMITH

APPROVED BY: S/S-O SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 259967

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM LONDON DTD 31 OCT 1977 QTE

S E C R E T LONDON 17882

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR SITUATION

1. CHRISTOPHER MALLABY, HEAD OF THE FCO'S ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT, ASKED US OCTOBER 31 IF WE HAD ANY WORD ON HOW WASHINGTON PROPOSED TO PROCEED WITH REGARD TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR SITUATION. HMG IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER U.S. HAS DECIDED TO COMMENCE IN-DEPTH EXCHANGES WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS SUGGESTED IN VORSTER'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. MALLABY SAID THAT IF SUCH DISCUSSIONS OCCUR, THE BRITISH WILL WANT TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY SHOULD UNDER-  
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TAKE PARALLEL TALKS, ASK TO SIT IN ON U.S. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS, OR SIMPLY BE KEPT INFORMED. MALLABY CONTINUED THAT THERE WERE PROS AND CONS FOR ALL THESE ALTERNATIVES, AND THAT NO HMG DECISION HAD BEEN MADE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE LARGEST CON TO ACTIVE HMG ROLE WAS THAT THE UK HAD NO LEVERAGE IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA BECAUSE IT HAD NO NUCLEAR TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

AT THE SAME TIME, AS THE RHODESIAN INITIATIVE GOES FORWARD, THE BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO BE SEEN BY THE AFRICANS AS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REDUCE SOUTH AFRICA'S CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP AND DETONATE A NUCLEAR DEVICE. THUS, SHOW OF UK INVOLVEMENT COULD BE USEFUL.

3. IN CONCLUDING, MALLABY REQUESTED THAT WE KEEP IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH ON THIS MATTER. WHEN THE U.S. DECIDES WHAT TO DO NEXT, THE BRITISH HOPE TO BE IMMEDIATELY CONSULTED. WE ASSURED MALLABY THEY WOULD BE.

BREWSTER UNQTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009